REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. IN THE CLAIMS

The Applicants amended various claims above to correct informalities. No new matter was added.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 as being anticipated by Baum et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0211839, published November 13, 2003, herein referred to as "Baum"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Baum teaches methods and an apparatus for providing emergency telephone service to IP-Based telephone users. For purposes of servicing emergency calls a telephone number is associated with each edge router port used to provide IP service to a customer premise location. (See Baum, Abstract).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Baum fails to teach or to suggest an access architecture for real-time communications comprising an inter-architecture network comprising a plurality of external networks utilizing a single protocol, wherein each one of said plurality of external networks uses a different access protocol and a plurality of border elements, each of said border elements in communication with said inter-architecture network and each of said border elements in communication with a respective external network of said plurality of external networks, wherein each of said border elements converts a protocol of said respective external network to said single protocol, as positively claimed by the Applicants' independent claim 1. Specifically, Applicants' independent claim 1 recites:

1. An access architecture for real-time communications comprising:

an inter-architecture network comprising a plurality of external networks utilizing a single protocol, wherein each one of said plurality of external networks uses a different access protocol;

a plurality of border elements, each of said border elements in communication with said inter-architecture network and each of said border elements in communication with a respective external network of said plurality of external networks, wherein each of said border elements converts a protocol of said respective external network to said single protocol; and

a plurality of call control elements, each of said call control elements in communication with said inter-architecture network. (Emphasis added).

In one embodiment, Applicants' invention is an access architecture for real-time communications comprising an inter-architecture network comprising a plurality of external networks utilizing a single protocol, wherein each one of said plurality of external networks uses a different access protocol and a plurality of border elements, each of said border elements in communication with said inter-architecture network and each of said border elements in communication with a respective external network of said plurality of external networks, wherein each of said border elements converts a protocol of said respective external network to said single protocol. For example, the Applicants' invention may provide real-time communication services using a variety of media among the communicating entities or parties, which may accommodate a variety of call control protocols for establishing the communicating session. (See e.g., Applicants' specification, p. 3, ll. 1-6).

Baum fails to anticipate the Applicants' invention because Baum fails to teach or suggest an access architecture for real-time communications comprising an inter-architecture network comprising a plurality of external networks utilizing a single protocol, wherein each one of said plurality of external networks uses a different access protocol and a plurality of border elements, each of said border elements in communication with said inter-architecture network and each of said border elements in communication with a respective external network of said plurality of external networks, wherein each of said border elements converts a protocol of said respective external network to said single protocol. Notably, Baum appears to teach that the edge routers are each coupled to a network using identical protocols. (See Baum, FIG. 1; para. [0057] – [0061]). Also, Baum is completely silent as to teaching that the edge routers

perform protocol conversion. Therefore, Baum fails to anticipate the Applicants' independent claim 1.

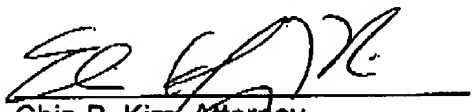
Moreover, dependent claims 2-12 depend from independent claim and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2-12 are also patentable and not anticipated by Baum. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements for patentability. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Chin B. Kim, Attorney
Reg. No. 54,220
(732) 530-9404